

Appl. No. 10/561,333  
Amdt. Dated 10/14/2010  
Reply to Office Action of 07/14/2010

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Thanks.

/J.R./

10/18/2010

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant :	OTTINO	Confirmation No.	5295
Appl. No. :	10/561,333		
Filed :	05/01/2006		
Title :	A Functional Unit for a Door of a Motor Vehicle		
Grp./A.U. :	3634		
Examiner :	REDMAN, Jerry E.		
Docket No. :	702444US		

Honorable Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT**

Sir:

In response to the Office Action of July 14, 2010, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 5 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A combination of a functional unit (1) for and a door (2) of for a motor vehicle, the door including a window, the functional unit comprising:

wherein the door includes a window,

wherein the functional unit includes a lock, an actuating mechanism and a window regulator device,

a the lock (3) comprising a closing mechanism (20) that, in use, releasably couples with a lock striker (4) bringing about closing of said door (2);

an wherein the actuating mechanism (21) that controls release of said closing mechanism (20) by said lock striker (4) to bring about opening of said door (2), wherein the actuating mechanism (21) includes a control member (54) that, in use, is connected to a handle (55) of said door (2) and is selectively displaced from a resting position to a first operative position which brings about said transmission assembly (56) from said disabling configuration to said enabling configuration, wherein the actuating mechanism (21) further includes an opening lever (53), which is connected to said closing mechanism (20) and can be displaced, by means of said transmission assembly (56), from a resting position to an opening position, in which the opening lever brings about release of said closing mechanism (20) from said lock striker (4); a connection element (75) for connecting selectively together said opening lever (53) and said control member (54); and constraint means (76, 77, 78, 79), which are set between said connection element (75), said opening lever (53) and said control member (54), and are active during an overtravel of the control member (54) for enabling emergency opening of said door (2); and

a the window-regulator device (5) comprising an electrically operated actuator (22) that, in use, raises and lowers a window (7) of said door (2), said functional unit further comprising coupling means (56), which selectively couples together said actuator (22) and said actuating mechanism (21 enabling, in use, opening of said door (2) by means of the actuator (22), wherein the coupling means comprises a transmission assembly (56) set between said actuator (22) and said actuating mechanism (21) and selectively available in two operating configurations corresponding to enabling and disabling control of said actuating mechanism (21) by said actuator (22).

2-3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) The unit according to ~~claim 3~~ claim 1, characterized in that said actuator (22) has an output shaft (23), which can turn about an axis (C) thereof to operate a member (24) for raising and lowering a window (7) of said door (2), and in that said transmission assembly (56) comprises a motor member (83) angularly coupled to said shaft (23), and a selection member (85) available in a first advanced position, in which the selection member is designed to receive actuation from said motor member (83), and a second operative position, in which the selection member is uncoupled from the motor member (83).

5. (canceled)

6. (currently amended) The unit according to ~~claim 5~~ claim 1, characterized in that said constraint means comprise respective slots (78, 79) made on said opening lever and on said control member (53, 54) and engaged with play by respective pins (76, 77) of said connection element (75).

7. (currently amended) The unit according to ~~claim 6~~ claim 1, characterized in that said first and second operative positions of said selection member (85) are defined by the interaction of the selection member (85) with fixed arrest means (94), in that said selection and control members (85, 54) co-operate together with respective interaction portions (96, 80), and in that at least one of said interaction

portions (96, 80) is constrained in a mobile way to the remaining part of the said corresponding member (85, 54) and is loaded by deformable elastic means (82, 82') until said first operative position is reached by said selection member (85) in order to enable an overtravel of said control member (54), along which the control member actuates said opening lever (53) via said connection element (75).

8. (canceled)

9. (previously presented) The unit according to claim 6, characterized in that said first and second operative positions of said selection member (85) are defined by the interaction of the selection member (85) with fixed arrest means (94), in that said selection and control members (85, 54) co-operate together with respective interaction portions (96, 80), and in that at least one of said interaction portions (96, 80) is constrained in a mobile way to the remaining part of the said corresponding member (85, 54) and is loaded by deformable elastic means (82, 82') until said first operative position is reached by said selection member (85) in order to enable an overtravel of said control member (54), along which the control member actuates said opening lever (53) via said connection element (75).

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

This is in response to the final Office Action dated July 14, 2010.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. The Examiner pointed out that it is not clear whether claim 1 is directed to a functional unit or a combination of a functional unit and a door. The applicant has amended claim 1 so that it is directed to the combination. The applicant submits that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112 is no longer applicable.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-4 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US 5,902,004 (Waltz et al) and indicated that claims 5 -7 and 9 would be allowable depending on how they are amended. The applicant has amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claims 2, 3 and 5 in order to address the anticipation rejection. Accordingly, the applicant submits that claim 1 is now allowable.

The applicant has amended the other claims to address claim dependencies in light of the amendments to claim 1. The applicant has canceled claims 2-3, 5 and 8.

The applicant submits that the claim amendments made do not require the applicant to file a Request for Continued Examination and the associated fee.

The applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance and requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: October 14, 2010

By:

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